



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE PHILATÉLIE

Section for Astrophilately

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Section for Astrophilately Report on Activities in 2014

The most regular activity of the Commission has been given by the continuous correspondence from worldwide collectors of Astrophilately consulting about different chapters of this exciting field of collecting.

The Section's Bureau.

The Bureau continued to work in its original composition as elected in 2012 including 1 member invited by the Section's Chairman.

The Bureau consists of 6 members;

Chairman - Igor Rodin (Russia);

Secretary – Jaromir Matejka (Austria);

Bureau member (FEPA) – Julius Cacka (Czech Republic);

Bureau member (FIAP) – Carol Cheung (Hong Kong);

Bureau member (FIAP) – Avedis Ketchian (Argentina);

Bureau member (invited) - Charles Bromser (Austria)

Because of American Philatelic Society appointed a new delegate to the FIP Section for Astrophilately, Dr. Reuben Ramkissoon (USA) is no more an invited Bureau member.

Astrophilately in Austria.

My club GMÜNDER WELTRAUMFREUNDE launched two “mail rockets” in memoriam of Voshod-1, LLRV, Spacelab and Challenger STS at “Cape Kaltbrunn” in Switzerland. I arranged a special temporary post office with a picture postmark in memoriam Voshod-1, LLRV, Spacelab and Challenger STS.

I worked hard as board member of the Austrian Philatelic Association – especially international matters are my agenda. I attended the FIP-Exhibition at Seoul as Austrian National Commissioner. In the future it will be very important to intensify personal contacts with all active ASTROPHILATELY-Jurors to obtain an even levelling and further development of all active ASTROPHILATELY-Jurors world-wide. It is not acceptable that Jurors judge Astrophilately-exhibits without having an Astrophilately-exhibit on FIP-level on their own.

Jaromir Matejka

Astrophilately in Belgium.

The year 2014 was dedicated to the National Competitive Exhibition BRABANTPHIL 2014 in Aarschot, October 3rd to 5th. Five astrophilatelic exhibits took part in this exhibition and all were awarded with a fair result between Silver up to Large Vermeil.

Our quarterly magazine Cosmos Express received the Vermeil Award in Literature with 81 %.

BFV Cosmos had nine meetings in Ghent with an average of 15 people attending. Our magazine Cosmos Express was published four times in 2014, each in Flemish and in English publication, with a total of 144 pages for each publication.

During some of these meetings, one of our members presents a part or a whole of their collection, to be judged and approved by our members.

The website of BFV Cosmos – www.bfvcosmos.be - has been updated in 2014 and became a modern and up-to-date site for astrophilatelists. The site is ready for new pages with more explicit subjects about astrophilately and spaceflight.

BFV Cosmos each year gains a few members home and abroad, thanks to the English edition of Cosmos Express and the website. We intend to go to electronic publication in order to avoid higher printing and postal costs.

BFV Cosmos attended national meetings in Brussels organised by the Royal Belgian Federation of Stamp collectors and several regional philatelic meetings in Ghent, Antwerp and Bruges.

BFV Cosmos will attend on the next competitive exhibit in Belgium during 2015, Themaphila 50 in Wetteren.

Jacqueline Lauwers-Bekaert

National Commissionar Astrophilately

Astrophilately in Czech Republic.

Main work was to lead group „WELTRAUM“ of Czech philately organisation (SČF). I am member of expert team SČF, board member of SČF and member of the Executive Board SČF.

Publishing:

- More than ten articles in Bulletin KOSMOS and some translations from German magazine „Weltraum-Philatelie“.
- Some articles in Italian space magazine „Ad Astra“.

Participating and management by events:

- 25.-27.4.2013, Pardubice, KOSMOS new party, lecture
- 28.4.2014, Prag, Meeting with Kosmonaut Rzasanskij
- 14.6.2014 Meeting with Umberto Cavalaro (Chairman of Italian Astrophilatelists)
- 29.7.2014, Vienna, Bureau-meeting with Mr. Matejka
- 29.8.2014, Gmunden, Meeting with four chairmen of astrophilately clubs from Germany, Austria, Swiss and Czech Republik

- 6.9.2014, Prag, member of expertteam by exhibition „SBĚRATEL 2014“

- 29.10.2014, , Interview with Kosmonaut Skworzow at Karlsbad

- 8.11.2014, Anual meeting „Deutsche Raumfahrtstellung Morgenröthe-Rautenkranz e.V.“, Interview with Kosmonaut Salyotin

- 19.11.2014, Lecture „Kosmonautik und Astrophilately“ at Hermanuv Mestec, Tschechien

- 22.12.2014, Interview with Kosmonaut Maxim Surajew at Karlsbad

International activity: Constant contacts with astrophilately philatelists from Germany, Austria, Swiss, Russia, Italy and Great Britain.

Julius Cacka

Astrophilately in France.

1- Bulletin “The Cosmophil”

The French Astrophilatelic Society (AAF) publishes the “Cosmophil” (8 pages size 21x29,7 cm) for our members quarterly. The papers develop a part of the space history illustrated with space covers and space stamps and also give information on our society and on space events. Since 2012, this bulletin is printed in full color.

2- Publications

We publish papers on Astrophilately in the bulletin of the French Federation of Philately.

3- European space covers catalogue

Ten years ago, we started an important work, a catalogue of the European space covers issued by the European Astrophilatelic societies excluding the covers issued by commercial companies because they publish their own catalogues.

As a printed catalogue was too expensive, we choosed to record this catalogue on a CD. Specific software was developed and we dispatched to our members the first part “1930-1975” in 2011. The

second CD “1976-1980” was dispatched at the beginning of 2014 and the third CD “1981-1990” is planned for the first quarter of 2015.

4- Space covers

4.1- Flown covers

The philatelic society of EADS Astrium: “La Marianne” located at Saint Médard en Jalles near Bordeaux prepared covers that were carried out to ISS by 5 « Automated Transfer Vehicles », ATV-001 “Jules Verne” launched on 9 March 2008, ATV-002 “ Johannes Keppler” launched on 16 February 2011, ATV-003 “Edoardo Amaldi” launched on 23 March 2012, ATV-004 “Albert Einstein” launched on 5 June 2013 and ATV-005 “Georges Lemaître ».

The flown covers from ATV-003, ATV-004 and ATV-005 were dispatched two years ago and last year. Some of them received the Russian ISS board cachet.

4.2- Launches from Kourou

The philatelic society “La Marianne”, the CNES (French Space Agency) philatelic society and the ARIANESPACE philatelic society make covers cancelled at Kourou for their members.

It is to mention that ARIANESPACE philatelic society stopped the production of space covers on December,31 2014.

5- Meetings

AAF organizes twice a year a meeting to explain to our members how to prepare astrophilatelic participation. We also gave lectures on space history and Astrophilately.

6- Cooperation with other French Astrophilatelic societies.

There exist in France four astrophilatelic societies belonging to space companies and one independent: the “French Astrophilatelic Society” (AAF):

- “La Marianne “ which belongs to EADS Astrium and located at Saint Médard en Jalles, near Bordeaux

- The philatelic society of SAFRAN Solid Propulsion :” Astrophil” located at Le Haillan near Bordeaux

- AAF has a good cooperation with them and I advise them for the preparation of French flown covers. I also help their members to prepare astrophilatelic exhibits.

- ARIANESPACE philatelic society only involves in the preparation and the sale of Kourou space covers to their members but closed since the end of 2014.

- the CNES (French Space Agency) philatelic society only involves in the preparation and the sale of Kourou space covers to their members.

7- Participation in exhibitions.

- Competitive exhibitions.

Two new astro exhibits were exhibited on October 13 and 14, 2014 at Aubonne. They got a large silver medal and a silver medal.

Our aim is to increase the number of astro exhibits within the French philatelic exhibitions

- Promotional exhibition

We participated in a national exhibition from 1st to 4th of May 2014, at Poitiers within the frame of “Timbres Passions”. We had a very large cell and 8 astro exhibits were presented in “Cours d’Honneur”.

- In 2014, I was juror for the Astrophilatelic class at department level.

Jean-Louis LAFON, AAF President.

Astrophilately in Germany.

A year of transition

For astrophilatelists organized in the German “Weltraum Philatelie e. V.” association, 2014 was a year of transition. The old board, composed by Florian Noller as President, Hans Dittscheid as Vice President and editor of the club’s magazine and website, and Reiner Brosi as treasurer, did not want to run for a new term. Noller had become President after the death of Peter Wilhelm in 2006, while Brosi had acted as treasurer for 22 years. Dittscheid, who had assumed editorship of the magazine

in 2006 and served as webmaster of the club's website, had become Vice President only three years ago.

Caught by surprise, the annual assembly in the city of Essen in May elected a new Board. 61 year old Dr Stephen Lachhein is the new President of the association. Lachhein lives in the city of Leverkusen, is a professional chemist and former manager with Bayer. 56 year old Jürgen Peter Esders is the new Vice President of „Weltraum Philatelie“. Esders is a politologist and journalist by training and lives in the Belgian capital, Brussels. His work will focus on the magazine and newsletter of the association and exhibitions. While former President Noller was unanimously elected as treasurer, he stepped down from his new office two days later. Thus, a new general assembly was required, which took place at Bonn in October of the same year, electing Michael Anderiasch from Dinslaken as treasurer. 49 year old Anderiasch is a certified accountant and authorized officer for accountancy in an industrial firm. Dr. Hans Ferdinand Virnich from the town of Sinn and Siegfried Zimmerer from Stuttgart were confirmed in their office as honorary assessors. Stephen Lachhein, who is an enthusiastic exhibitor himself, wishes to incite German astro collectors to exhibit their treasures more frequently. Lachhein leads by good example: his own collection was first shown on the International stamp show at Gmunden/Austria, winning a silver medal in the regional class. Re-worked, the exhibit will again run in the bi-national German-Czech competitive exhibition "Euregio Egrensis" at Chomutov in Northern Bohemia in May 2015. Lachhein hopes to take part in the National Exhibition taking place in the Austrian city of Gmunden again, this August.

Vice President Jürgen Peter Esders focused on re-launching the associations' bulletin, traditionally published four times a year. He won new authors for the paper and published three editions by the year's end, each of which comprising around 60 pages. At the same, he continued to publish the association's newsletter, providing members with up to date information on events, astronaut contacts, covers and postmarkers, distributed to members both via e-mail as by post. Also, an appearance of the association on Facebook has been launched.

Both Presidents will also focus on improving international relations. The co-operation with the Austrian Gmünder Weltraumfreunde was confirmed; the German collectors will continue to provide their Austrian counterparts with copies of their magazine. During the Gmunden 2014 exhibition in August, Presidents of four German-speaking astrophilatelic associations, from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic sat together to discuss details of their co-operation.

The new Board also wishes to extend the outreach of the association: informal meetings for chat, swap and sale among members shall be organized several times a year, in different regions of the country. A first such gathering is planned for mid-March 2015 near the city of Frankfurt. President Lachhein also wishes to enhance the contact to astronauts and cosmonauts, either by inviting them to the club's events or by organizing visits to public appearances of the flyers. In this context, the next annual assembly may be organized near a public appearance organized in Eastern Germany to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the first space walk, starring Alexei Leonov.

The club's new website, launched only a year ago, is at the moment temporarily down due to transition issues. A new webmaster has yet to be found.

2014 saw the publication of two volumes of the catalogue on space stamps from Africa. This tireless effort by author Dieter Steinbrecher over many years is giving birth to a collecting tool that will serve astrophilatelists in many years to come. This brings the number of catalogues edited and published by Steinbrecher to a total of nine. The series of catalogues will be culminating with a third volume of space stamps in Africa.

Jürgen Peter ESDERS, Vice President, Weltraum Philatelie e. V.
German delegate to the FIP Section for Astrophilately

Astrophilately in Italy.

In March 2014 the first Astrophilately Seminar in Italy was held in Milan, with the participation of 20 collectors. Igor Rodin contributed to the seminar with his presentation "Appropriate material for

an Astrophilatellic Exhibit". The institutional part of the Seminar was presented by Umberto Cavallaro, Italian FIP delegate for Astrophilately.

In view of the International Philately Exhibition to be organized in the frame of the World Expo ITALIA 2015, two astrophilately exhibitions have been held in Vasto (Vastophil – May 2014) and in Rome (Romafil – October 2014). In total 16 Astrophilately exhibits are now qualified for International Astrophilately Exhibitions. At the end of December 2014 the Italian Philately Federation had however communicated that due to complete lack of sponsorship by Poste Italiane, the World Philately Exhibition have been cancelled.

Italy is therefore considering to participate in the exhibition to be held in Gmunden, in Austria.

An exhibition on WOMEN IN SPACE has been presented in November for two weeks in Verano Brianza (hometown of the Italian Astronaut Paolo Nespoli), in occasion of the launch of Samantha Cristoforetti, the first Italian female Astronaut. The thematic exhibition features the 60 female space travelers who have been in space so far, and the event also included three conferences and presentation to general public, schools and amateurs astronomers. Paolo Nespoli participated in the closing Ceremony and discussed about the Cristoforetti's mission. The exhibit will be presented in other Italian towns in the next months.

A dozen of commemorative covers were issued by ASITAF during 2014 for space events dealing with Italy, such as the launch of GAIA and Sentinel 1-A, the official delivery of Bepi Colombo to ESA, the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of San Marco, etc.

For the latter celebration ASITAF has sponsored the issuing of an Italian commemorative stamp and the ASITAF President Umberto Cavallaro was invited by Poste Italiane to prepare the Official Bulletin for the presentation of the stamp.

An event has been organized by ASITAF and ASI (Italian Space Agency) at the ASI headquarter in Rome, where ASITAF has prepared an exhibition on ITALY IN SPACE which has become a permanent show in the ASI Headquarter.

Four annual issues of the "AD*ASTRA" quarterly Journal have been published in Italian and English and provide members with background information on space events and astrophilately.

A new version of the website www.asitaf.it, available both in Italian and English has been reloaded. Umberto Cavallaro, Italian FIP delegate for Astrophilately.

Astrophilately in Romania.

- Long partnership with ASSS (Astro Space Stamp Society) United Kingdom – by designing the Air Mail Labels used each year by the society.
 - A close collaboration with the ASITAF president Umberto Cavallaro on different astrophilatellic projects and exhibitions. The exhibition WOMEN IN SPACE featuring the female space explorers who have been in space in the last 50 years has been shown in Verano Brianza - Italy from 15 to 30 November.
 - The National philatellic exhibition with international participation AEROMFILA 2014, at it's XXIXth edition is organized by the Local Council of City Sibiu, Philatellic Society from Sibiu, Romanian Philatellic Federation and the Aerophilatellic Commission during 25th – 29th of June 2014 in the Sibiu EXPO City Hall under the patronage of the American Air Mail Society. The jury of the exhibition met on the 25th - 26th of June 2014 to evaluate the presented exhibits. In Non Competitive Class were presented 7 exhibits, one of these in Honour Class. AEROMFILA 2014 is a competitive exhibition and takes place according to the Statutes of the International Philatellic Federation (F.I.P.), on aerophilatellic, astrophilatellic and other philatellic subjects, as well as to AEROMFILA 2014 Regulations.
 - A virtual stamp was designed in the memory of the regretted Prof. Ștefan Nicolau - the father of Romanian Astrophilately - © Alec Bartos
- Promoting astrophilately on www:
- Personal Webiste www.alecbartos.com
 - Making and administrating the Astrophilately FaceBook page

www.facebook.com/pages/Astrophilately/182383558506650

- Making and administrating FaceBook AS.IT.AF page

www.facebook.com/asitaf1?ref=hl

- admin of ASSS (Astro Space Stamp Society)

www.facebook.com/pages/The-Astro-Space-Stamp-Society/125401870287?ref=hl

• NEW book co-authored by Alec Bartos and Jim Reichman 2014-1 Philatelic Study Report: Soviet and Russian Space-Support Ship Covers and Cachets (294 pgs with CD-ROM)

Alec Bartos, Chairman of Astrophilately Commission of the Romanian Philatelic Federation.

Astrophilately in Spain.

DISCLOSURE OF THE ASTROPHILATELY

1.- Conferences and presentations.

1.1 Conferences

Mr. Grandela conference in Belorado (Burgos) 6 March, under the title “Short history of communications”.

1.2 Presentations

a) Presentation in Casa de Vacas, Jardines del Buen Retiro (Madrid) 15 October, about the cultural tourism in Fresnedillas by Mr. Grandela with comments about the Lunar Museum of Fresnedillas.

b) In the Spanish Philatelic Exhibit EXFILNA 2014, CORREOS (Spanish Post) showed for first time some displays with all philatelic classes.

2.- Articles.

a) March 2014. “Olympic Torch in Space” Mr. Rigo, published in AD*ASTRA, number 20 magazine, from Italian astro club Associazione Italiana di Astrofilatelia (ASITAF).

b) May 2014. “Signatures in Astrophilately” Mr. Rigo, published in blog Mr. Gorsky mrgorsky.wordpress.com

<http://mrgorsky.wordpress.com/2014/05/01/firmas-en-astrofilatelia/>

This article was first published in Oct 2013 in the Italian magazine AD*ASTRA.

c) July-August 2014. “Is it posible to enjoy with Astrophilately?” Mr. Rigo, publisjed in the philatelic magazine EL ECO FILATELICO Y NUMISMATICO, number 1231.

d) September 2014. “Astrophilately, a interessant subthematic from the wide field of aviation” (article in Catalan) Mr. Xavier Romero, published in the catalogue of Expofil 2014 Sant Feliu de Guíxols, Girona.

e) October 2014. “Are signatures on philatelic covers just ornamentation?” Mr. Rigo, published in the magazine ORBIT, from British astro club Astro Space Stamp Society (ASSS).

This article was first published in AD*ASTRA (Oct-13) and in the blog mrgorsky.wordpress.com (May-14).

f) November 2014. “Air-sea base of Rota: its relation with espace” Mr. Rigo, published in hte philatelic magazine EL ECO FILATELICO Y NUMISMATICO, number 1234.

3.- Presence of the Astrophilately in other events.

160 ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHY IN SPAIN

From 1st December 2014 to 31st January 2015 in Sala de las Arquerías, Paseo Castellana 67 Madrid, Ministerio de Fomento is held an exhibit dedicated to 160 anniversary of electric telegraphy in Spain.

4.- Exhibits.

4.1. General information of exhibits.

VI EXPOSICION FILATELICA AVIACION Y ESPACIO 2014 (VI Exhibit Aviation and Space) From 27th June to 6th July 2014 in the Headquarters of Spanish Air Force (C/ de la Princesa, 92) Madrid.

PHILATELIC EXHIBIT FILACENTRO 2014, San Lorenzo de El Escorial (Madrid) 6-13 September

Visit to Lunar Museum of Fresnedillas, 10 Sept, with the guide and comments by Mr. Grandela.

4.2 Participation of exhibitors.

National category (competitive)

EXFILNA 2014 Torremolinos, Málaga, 27 February - 2 March

National category (no competitive)

VI EXHIBIT AVIATION AND SPACE, Madrid, 27 June-6 July

160 ANNIVERSARY OF ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHY IN SPAIN, Madrid, 1 December 2014 - 31 January 2015

Regional category (competitive)

FILACENTRO 2014, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid 6-13 September

XVI EXP. PROVINCIAL DE FILATELIA DE ALICANTE, Alicante, 30 September -15 November.

Permanent Exhibition

Fresnedillas de la Oliva (Madrid). Lunar Museum.

Exhibitor - José Manuel GRANDELA DURAN,

Several astrophilatelic covers involved on tracking space station located in Spain as well as rubber stamp cachets applied to many covers requested by collectors around the world.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

E-mail correspondence between Spanish astrophilatelists by submitting astrophilatelic material, holding all kinds of comments, questions, doubts and suggestions, an addressing current issues and history of the Astrophilately.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2015

Given the historical significance that reflects the astrophilatelic material about the exact date and specific location of the space events, is the purpose of this Commission:

- a) To promote the astrophilatelic exhibits in all types of exhibitions within the philatelic area (requesting admission to the organizers of these), and non-philatelic area (with special attention to the assembly of the exhibits).
- b) Maintain and enter wherever possible, the kind of Astrophilately as a kind of stamp collectors fully differentiated from the rest.
- c) To extend the knowledge of Astrophilately class disclosing it in so many places as possible, as philatelic and non-philatelic.
- d) To encourage collectors interested in space research to build astrophilatelic exhibits, either in the form of One frame or Three frames, as a prerequisite to get the five frames.

Antoni RIGO, Spanish Astrophilately Chairman

Astrophilately in Switzerland.

A retrospect on Astrophilately activities for 2014.

- 1.) The Society of Space Philatelists-GWP, founded in 1969 in Zurich, held monthly assemblies, except July/August, where members became informed by PowerPoint and beamer about space activities and related astrophilatelic material. In December with special guest Guido Schwarz, founder of the "Swiss Space Museum", to be opened in 2019.
- 2.) After five years of co-operation between the three Space Philatelic Societies of German language in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the Swiss and the Austrian Societies left the co-operation and the Swiss publication "Space Phil News" was re-launched. Four quarterly numbers were published and distributed to the Swiss and Austrian members.
- 3.) Publications of astrophilatelic articles in the Magazine of the Swiss Philatelic Federation.
- 4.) The web site of the Society www.g-w-p.ch informs about up to date activities of the society, of the FIP Section for Astrophilately, space societies, space programmes, space/philatelic events and exhibitions.
- 5.) Exhibitions: At a Regional exhibition – level 3 – in August, a 4 frames exhibit obtained only S as the organiser demanded either 3 or 8 frames. At a FISA-FIP – level 1 – exhibition in USA, in September, a redesigned (and translated to English) exhibit was present and obtained G from the APS and LV from the FIP judges. At a Regional exhibition – level 3 – in November, a 3 frames exhibit obtained V. Two exhibits (a 5 frame show-exhibit and a 3-frame level 1 exhibit) were

displayed in the Swiss Transport Museum from January to June for the re-opening of the renovated planetarium.

6.) In March and November 2014, the GWP successfully organized auctions with astrophilatelic material were organized.

For 2015 it is intended to continue with the same yearly programme and remaining open for special challenges. The society still plans to redesign and modernise the society's homepage www.g-w-p.ch.

Chris Schmied, Delegate of Switzerland of the FIP Section for Astrophilately

Astrophilately in USA.

ANNUAL SPACE UNIT MEETING AT TEXPEX EXHIBITION, DALLAS, TEXAS

The Space Unit's annual meeting was held at the Texas Philatelic Association's TEXPEX Philatelic Exhibition, February 28-March 2, 2014, in Dallas, Texas. Spring had already arrived at this beautiful Dallas location with the show being graciously hosted at the Hilton Dallas Fort Worth Lakes Executive Conference Center, a four star resort hotel and conference center. Indeed it was a superb venue for stamp and space cover collectors, friends, and visitors in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

Attendees to TEXPEX, though, were anxiously anticipating a presentation by a member of the Mercury 13 women in space program, Wally Funk, an astronaut candidate tested by Dr. Randy Lovelace and supported by the U.S. Air Force in 1961. The program's challenging objective was to test the first women to become qualified as women astronauts in the U.S. Space Program.

Mercury 13 women's space program youngest member, Wally Funk, was the TEXPEX Philatelic Exhibition's guest speaker. Funk a qualified candidate from the program is still a commercial pilot and aviatrix specializing in acrobatic flying. She charmed the audience with her quick witted presentation about women qualifying for spaceflight in the Mercury 13 test program in 1961 against incredible odds for women doing this. She noted that the women of Mercury 13 program in many cases either met or beat the qualifications of the Project Mercury male astronauts who took the same tough astronaut training. After speaking, Wally talked to Space Unit members about her experiences during rigorous astronaut testing at the Lovelace Clinic, Albuquerque, New Mexico. After her presentation, she autographed many of the attendees' Project Mercury space covers, providing wonderful memories of hearing her informative presentation of this early space related training program and the chance to meeting her.

Space Unit members were well represented in the competitive philatelic exhibiting at TEXPEX and won the following philatelic awards. Former Space Unit President Ray Cartier, took a Gold medal, and Space Unit Gold medal as Best Exhibit of the Show with his stunning five frame "Primary Recovery Ships" exhibit. This was followed-up by U.S. FIP Representative David Ball winning a Vermeil award for his impressive upgraded ten frame exhibit, "Americans in Space: Project Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo."

Space Unit members also were busy in the noncompetitive exhibit category. Two Space Unit members displayed three noncompetitive philatelic exhibits at TEXPEX and wowing the crowd viewing the exhibits. Space Unit member, professional artist, and U.S. stamp designer, Chris Calle displayed a tremendous exhibit for "Stamp Design Artwork." Former Space Unit President Ray Cartier excelled once again in this category by showcasing two different noncompetitive exhibits, "Mars 1: The Soviets' First Attempt to Hit the Red Planet," and a second noncompetitive exhibit entitled "A Study of NASA VIP Cards."

Twenty-six members and guests attended this year's Space Unit annual meeting including Tom Steiner, SU President, Steve Durst, SU Vice-President, Terry Chamberlin, SU Treasurer, Dave Blog, SU Secretary, Jim Roth, SU Editor, Chris Calle, SU Professional Artist, Wolf Magnus, Logistics Manager, Steve Garner, SU Writer, Bob Boyd, SU Member, Michael Cartier, SU Acting Editor, Cheryl Ganz, Smithsonian Postal Museum, and many others.

The Space Unit annual meeting finale included a sumptuous Texas barbeque hosted at the home of former Space Unit President Ray Cartier and his wife Karen in Arlington, Texas. As in all of these

informal get-togethers, there was great food, delicious Texas barbeque, wonderful camaraderie with old and new friends, lots of space talk, and of course those ubiquitous trade sessions going late into the night. One of the highlights of the trading sessions this year was the acquisition by a lucky member of an early Neil Armstrong signed X-15 cover for his first X-15 test flight. The members at the barbeque agreed, it doesn't get any better than this.

SPACE UNIT ACTIVITIES IN 2014

The "Astrophile" Journal. "Astrophile" editor Jim Roth has resigned, and we wish Jim and his family well. We have made a job offer to a new editor to further promote publication of the "Astrophile" journal to overcome recent problems in publishing the journal. We have set a new goal to publish four, 96 page "Astrophile" issues per year. The new editor we are courting is experienced in publishing and expert in using InDesign software, the software we are already using for the "Astrophile." I anticipate regaining our "Astrophile" schedule this next year to meet the new goal of publishing four "Astrophiles" per year. Despite some serious setbacks over the last couple of years and recent turnover losing our editor, Space Unit members feel that our best years are still ahead of us.

Substantive articles appearing in the "Astrophile" issues of 2014 were noteworthy and varied covering these astrophilatic topics: "The Apollo 1 Tragedy and Apollo 1 Gallery" by Steve Durst; "The Beautiful Land Across the Water, Wallops Island History," by Steve Durst; "KH-9, Big Bird Spy Sat" by David Chudwin; "Space City Cover Society and NASA Local Post," by Stephen Garner; "Space Stamps," by William Waff; "Soviet Union, Dogs with the Right Stuff," by Jim Reichman; "Soviet Citizen in Space," by Jim Reichman; and "Remembering John Glenn's Flight on SCC Covers," by Chuck Vukotich.

Other noteworthy "Astrophile" articles included these: "Apollo 7 – The Unsung Heroes," by Umberto Cavallaro; "Flight of the Phoenix," by Apollo 7 Astronaut Walter Cunningham; "First off the Pad – Apollo 7," by Steve Durst; "Front Row Seats to History, the Instrumented Tracking Ships of Apollo 7," by Steve Durst; "Servicing Apollo Tracking Ship Covers," by Joseph Frasketi, Jr.; "The Piccards: An Exploring Family," by Ray Cartier; "There's Gold in Them Thar Hills, Rare Recovery Ship Cover Found," by Ross Smith; "Soviet Unit, To the Stars Philatelic Exhibition," by Jim Reichman; and "Soviet Union, Conquerors of the Cosmos," by Jim Reichman.

Space Unit Membership and Major Meetings. Membership of the Space Unit continues steady at 422 members from the United States and the international community. In 2014, formal Space Unit chapter meetings in the U.S. were held at five major astrophilatic venues. Space Unit members held formal meetings at the following stamp shows. Shows marked with an asterisk (*) are among the most prestigious astrophilatic shows in the U.S. : Texas Philatelic Exhibition February 28-March 2, 2014, Dallas, Texas*; Springfield Exposition, March 1-2, 2014, Springfield, Virginia; National Philatelic Exhibition, June 6-8, 2014, Washington, D.C.*; Baltimore Philatelic Exposition, August 29-31, 2014*; and the Chicago Philatelic Exposition, November 21-23, 2014, Chicago, Illinois* rounding out the year's activities.

Space Cover of the Week (SCOTW) Blog, Web Site under www.collectspace.com. The Space Cover of the Week is accessible under webmaster Robert Pearlman's parent web site, www.collectspace.com. The web site continues to be a big hit with space stamp and cover collectors and is free and open to all visitors to read articles contributed by astrophilaticists concerning space stamps and space covers and addressing space gatherings, space topics and news items on a near real time basis. The six major contributors to the SCOTW web site are all Space Unit members and are Bob McLeod, Dennis Dillman, Steve Durst, Tom Steiner, Ray Cartier.

SCOTW web site topics in 2014 included the following articles: Orion EFT-1 Launch and Recovery Covers, Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 Flown to the Moon Covers, Space Craft Special Edition Covers, Rosetta and Philae Comet Landing Postmarks, Planet Pluto, 1935 to 2015, Development of the X-15 Engine, TM-18 and the MIR Space Station, First Launch at Cape Canaveral, Voyager 1-Are We There Yet?, USPS Planning 2014 Solar System Stamps (USPS slipping this to 2015?), and Soviet Union-First to the Stars Exhibit.

It is anticipated that this forward reaching effort by Space Unit members will attract younger collectors and astrophilatelists just starting out on their space journey. The site is successfully appealing to a younger more computer savvy group of collectors. Additionally, we feel it looks intelligently towards our future and the future of space stamp and space cover collecting. Recently, the Space Cover of the Week site celebrated its 6 year anniversary and a 300th Space Cover of the Week posting, Soviet Union Crashed Nuclear Satellites. Yes, it has been an exciting ride! Webmaster Ross Smith's Web Site for the Space Unit. Space Unit member Ross Smith continues to dazzle us with his stellar efforts and web postings on the Space Unit website, <http://www.space.space-unit.com/>. Access to the SU web site also is free, and available to anyone via the Internet using the site link shown above Reprint articles from the "Astrophile" journal at the "Articles" selection button. Other articles from the Space Unit archives are often shown and feature varied and interesting space stamp and space cover related articles, such as these:

"Cosmonaut Autograph Collecting"

Author and Former Space Unit Vice President, John Macco

<http://www.space-unit.com/articles.htm>

"Twelve Men Who Walked on the Moon"

Author and Former Space Unit Editor, Bill York

<http://www.space-unit.com/articles.htm>

"International Space Station (ISS) Mail Delivery"

Author and Space Unit Director, Bruce Cranford

<http://www.space-unit.com/articles.htm>

"Hubble Stamps, First Day of Issue"

Author and President, JPL Stamp Club, Jim Rose

<http://www.space-unit.com/articles.htm>

"LM-Our First Moon Ship"

Author Bob Weinberger

<http://www.space-unit.com/articles.htm>

Steve Durst, Space Unit VP (Submitted by David S. Ball, US rep to FIP).

Section's website.

The section's website www.astrophilatelist.com is maintained by Sergey Rodin. The site has various database for the Section as well as current items regarding missions and associated philately.

Respectfully submitted,



Igor RODIN

Chairman of the FIP Section of Astrophilately

30 January 2015.